

ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

In FY 2003, the City of Cambridge will continue its efforts to reduce the number of families and individuals living in poverty. The City will focus primarily on supporting programs that raise household incomes and stabilize housing situations. It also supports the McKinney grant for which the department of Human Services will apply, in hopes of receiving \$500,000 to support the development of affordable housing that help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

Toward this end, the Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP) uses City tax dollars (and new resources from state, federal and private sources) to provide a number of direct services aimed, directly or indirectly, at increasing household incomes. These include adult education and ESL classes, job training, and development for youth and adults, childcare, and benefits counseling for the elderly.

DHSP also funds a range of community-based programs aimed, directly or indirectly, at increasing household incomes. These include programs designed to provide immigrant populations with access to social services as well as information and referral, programs designed to prevent and to alleviate the devastating impact of domestic violence, which often plunge women and their children into poverty, food pantry programs.

In addition to the City's commitment to develop and preserve affordable housing and the efforts of the Cambridge Housing Authority, DHSP directs City tax dollars (and new resources from state, federal and private sources) to provide a number of direct services that help homeless families find transitional and permanent housing and prevent eviction by stabilizing individuals and families in existing housing. These include a program that helps homeless families to find and retain permanent housing and a fuel assistance program.

DHSP also funds a range of community-based programs that help homeless families find transitional and permanent housing and prevent eviction by stabilizing individuals and families in existing housing. These include a program to provide legal services and support to low and moderate income families who face eviction or legal barriers to obtaining permanent housing.

The Department of Human Service Programs works closely with the Community Development Department and the Cambridge Housing Authority to maximize the impact of these programs on poverty levels. Taking into consideration the factors over which our jurisdiction has control, we believe that this strategy will significantly improve the lives of low-income working families, elderly on fixed incomes, immigrants, victims of domestic violence, single mother's moving off public assistance and others who struggle with poverty in our City.